HOT TOPICS

CURRENT ISSUES FOR ARMY LEADERS

AKO ARMY KNOWLEDGE ONLINE

www.us.army.mil

What AKO Offers
Getting Around in AKO
What's New at AKO

A Message from Army Knowledge Online Leadership

THE Army's portal, Army Knowledge Online or AKO, provides premier classified and unclassified enterprise functions, tools, and services to the warfighter, institutional, and greater Army community. We know that our success is based on adding value, preserving trust, and managing the performance and capacity of this tremendous capability.

Since its inception in 1999, AKO has delivered the tools, information, and services that help the Army to serve the country at any time and from every station. AKO remains the pivotal tool for transforming the Army to a knowledge and information culture that supports decision superiority and achieves the Department of Defense vision of a net-centric environment for warfighting and business operations.

The Soldier can use the AKO portal to check status of benefits, education, DEERS, finance, legal, medical, personnel, security, training, and travel from anywhere in the world. Soldiers can take advantage of future, targeted training information and gain access to position openings that promote career development.

By building buddy lists, troops can communicate via secure instant messaging. If users need to interact with Air Force members, instant messaging provides the capability. For Soldiers in low bandwidth situations, we developed AKO Lite. Using AKO as a conduit offers enhanced quality of life for Soldiers and their families, providing time and cost savings without concern of geography or schedule.

Relevant to the warfighter, AKO collects, processes, manages, and disseminates vast amounts of data. The synthesis of data into knowledge allows commanders the ability to effectively lead during dynamic operations in any environment, at any location--on land, in air or at sea. Commanders, planners, logisticians, and other authorized users can transmit data over AKO securely to collaborate on formatted information regardless of location.

Available to active duty Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Department of the Army Civilians, Army retirees, and Army-sponsored guests, AKO has evolved into one of the largest and most-used intranet sites in the world. Through millions of logins each week, AKO users share enterprise information instantly and easily in a fully encrypted environment.

In conjunction with our Functional Proponent, the Governance, Acquisition and Chief Knowledge Office, we at AKO will work diligently to find ways to add value to the Army's portal. We seek to earn and keep your trust in our ability to provide a secure place for your data that is reliable and always available. Finally, we intensively manage the performance and capacity of the portal using state of the art metrics and monitoring tools. Whether it be technology, security, or responsiveness, the user's experience is central to every move we make. See you Online!

Taylor Chasteen
COL, AC
Project Director, Army Knowledge Online
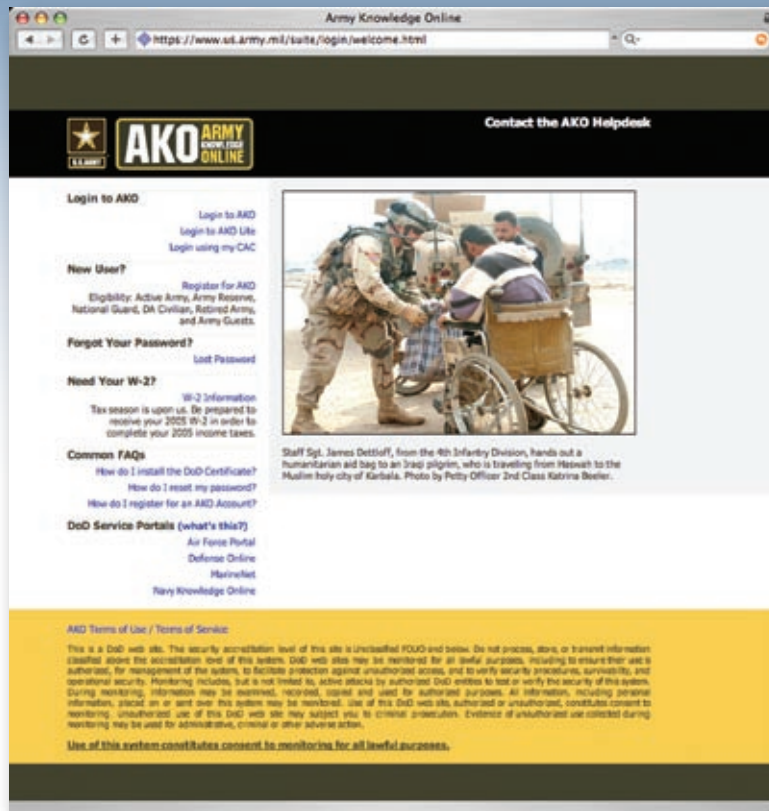Fort Belvoir, Va.

Credits

Staff Sgt. James Dettloff, from the 4th Infantry Division, hands out a humanitarian aid bag to an Iraqi pilgrim, who is traveling from Haswah to the Muslim holy city of Karbala. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Katrina Beeler.

What AKO Offers

ARMY Knowledge Online offers information distributed by priority, granularity and frequency determined dynamically by a Soldier's task and purpose.

The Army's premier enterprise system, AKO features universal directory services for all account holders; single sign-on for entry into a multitude of Army applications and systems; and a group server.

AKO's portal technologies provide a "push" of information by featuring user-friendly "wizards" for developing virtual teams, communities of interest, organizational communities, knowledge networks, structured professional forums, web services, self-service applications and a files-collaboration center.

AKO's collaboration technologies ensure a synchronous flow of information through e-mail, threaded discussions, instant messaging and chat. AKO instant messaging is becoming the primary vehicle of communication, replacing the quick phone call.

— *Army Knowledge Online Staff*

Reasons to Use AKO

- AKO is the only place to find, instant message, e-mail and share files with 1.8 million members of the Army community.

- User access to AKO is 24/7 anywhere in the world.

- AKO is secure; all file transfers through the portal are encrypted.

- Everything on AKO is automatically backed up so users won't lose data. There is no need for manual archiving.

- Army elements and account holders use AKO for free. All Army organizations have unlimited storage space for files and can use AKO to create groups and share information. At no cost to the organization, AKO provides staff who act as system administrators, state-of-the-art data centers and a critical-knowledge-management system.

- AKO provides one e-mail address for life, and users can set up Outlook or any other mail client to access e-mail automatically.(See "Training Materials" and "User Guides" under "Inside AKO" on the right side of the AKO homepage.)

- Any AKO account holder can create a site, which includes a group, a homepage and a knowledge center for document storage. The site can then be used to centrally store information and take advantage of the group e-mail feature to transmit information.

- Myriad resources under the "Self Service Section" of the homepage provide extensive information to users. This section allows users to access sites for benefits, education, family, finance, legal, personnel, medical, readiness, security, training and travel.

- Every AKO user has 50 megabytes of files storage space and another 50 MB of e-mail storage space.

- Gain access to thousands of newspapers, magazines, and journals through the "Army Library" in the "Reference Section."

DNA Sample on File

HIV Test on File

Last Medical Exam

Dental Readiness Category

Deployment Readiness Indicators

SOLDIERS may view their medical readiness status and can click on the link for detailed information about required immunizations, needed physicals, date of last HIV test, date of last DNA sample and dental-readiness status.

Collaboration Capabilities

AKO provides the tools that enable Army Organizations (whether they are large MACOMs, small units, or a family readiness group) to communicate and collaborate securely and effectively.

Large Army organizations can create an Organizational Site or a "Knowledge Network" in a few quick steps. Organizational Sites and Knowledge Networks offer unparalleled flexibility. AKO administrators can configure these areas to communicate to the entire AKO user population, or restrict information to specific groups. Organizational Sites and Knowledge Networks can also be customized with user-defined colors and logos.

Official or unofficial interest groups can create a Community of Practice in a few quick steps. These communities are areas in the portal where "like minded" or "like tasked" people can collaborate about an area of interest. They cut across the normal hierarchical structure of the Army.

Small Army groups, such as team or working groups, can create Virtual Teams to enable coordination and communication among a small, restricted group of users. A variety of tools, including document collaboration and calendaring, allow users to manage a variety of activities from a secure, centralized location.

Getting Around on AKO
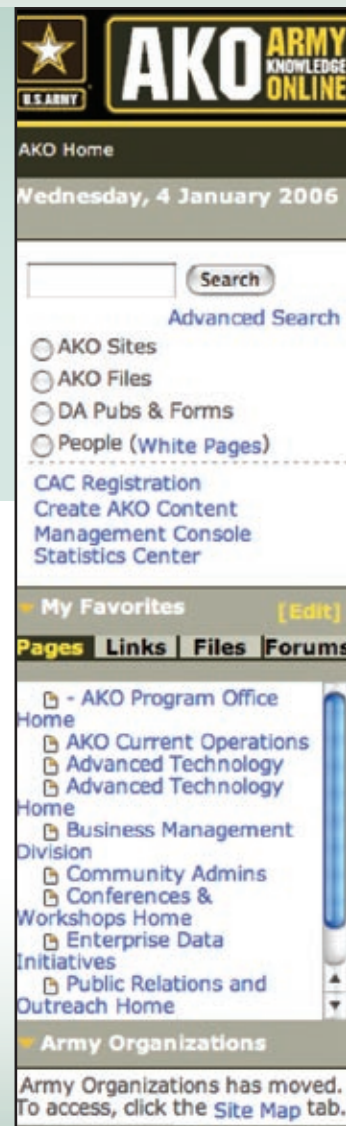
Navigation

IN response to user requests to make finding information on the portal more intuitive, Army Knowledge Online has improved its navigation features. Both "Search" and "My Favorites" are more prominent on the AKO Homepage.

The new version of the left navigation bar makes it easy to search for information and to bookmark favorite pages and files. All of the search options, including searching for people in the AKO white pages, are available in the left navigation bar on every page. Account-holder favorites are also available in the left bar, which enables getting to favorite pages with one click.

A site map was also developed, which quickly allows users to browse organization sites, online communities and virtual teams.

Welcome to the AKO Site Map!

Use the Site Map to search for or browse through pages for organizations (Organizational Sites), pages that focus on a topic of interest (Community Sites), and homepages for working groups (Team Sites).

Search Sites

Check one or more boxes and enter a keyword to search different sites.

Name of Site

Type of Site   Advanced Search   ☐ Organizational Sites
                                    ☐ Community Sites
                                    ☐ Team Sites

(Search)

Browse Sites

Click on the tab that matches the type of site you would like to browse.

Organizational Sites	Community Sites	Team Sites

Army Organizations

⊞ 🗃 Army Organizations
⊞ 🗃 Components
⊞ 🗃 MACOMS
⊞ 🗃 Special Staff/FOA

Searches

SEARCHING is now three times faster and 75 percent more relevant to subject inquiries. AKO makes it easy to search through pages that users and organizations have created on AKO.

Just type in the subject, select "Sites and Teams," and click "Search." Or search for files that are stored on AKO, a particular regulation, form or publication, or other AKO users in the "White Pages."

AKO also scans numerous Army sites and systems so that you can search them all from AKO. To search other Army sites, click on "Advanced Search," select "Army Web Sites," and type in your search term.

Favorites

Once users find exactly what they need, they can bookmark it to make it easy to find again.

Once a page is located, just click the "Add to My Favorites" button at the top of the page to add it to the list of favorites.

Users can bookmark files and forums, too, and add links to access from AKO. To add or delete bookmarks to pages, files and forums, just click the "Edit" link next to "My Favorites."

My Account

Go to "My Account" to change your preferences, including mail forwarding and sponsor management, set e-mail vacation messages, and update an address or phone number.

Users can set up "My Profile" pages here to display qualifications and experience to the Army. This area is also used for registering Common Access Cards.

Increased CAC login on AKO for certain services and applications will be prevalent in the future.

Who's Using AKO?

Average Monthly Usage by Active Army Division	Total Logins	Unique Logins	AKO Accounts	% Logged In
1st Armored	197,600	12,921	15,045	85.88%
1st Mechanized	155,007	11,143	11,564	93.36%
1st Cavalry	162,248	13,634	14,672	92.93%
2nd Mechanized	207,037	14,338	13,785	100%
3rd Mechanized	203,101	11,569	15,200	76.11%
4th Mechanized	225,787	13,528	16,292	83.03%
10th Light Infantry	128,751	8,432	9,909	85.09%
25th Light Infantry	118,940	10,680	11,896	89.78%
82nd Airborne	147,191	11,535	13,301	86.72%
101st Airborne Assault	305.063	12,842	15,522	82.73%

ACTIVE ARMY The Criminal Investigation Divison disposed of its servers, transferred its entire Web presence and data to knowledge centers in AKO, and now uses AKO to conduct day-to-day business.

NATIONAL GUARD The California National Guard's 2nd Brigade, 40th Division, was assigned the homeland security mission within the continental United States. In preparation for this year-long deployment, the 2nd Bde, used AKO as its "CONUS Shared Drive" to do coordination and collaboration on operations plan development. Logistics, administration and communications were also shared on AKO. At the end of the deployment, the Missouri National Guard's 1st Battalion, 35th field artillery, was designated as the backfill for the mission. LTC Phillip Butch, the California unit's executive officer, said it was an easy hand-off to the 1st Bde because his brigade just gave the incoming staff access to plans, lessons learned, POC listings, etc. That way, the gaining unit did not have to start from scratch.

ARMY RESERVE The Reserve Language Support Program, or RLSP, uses AKO and AKO-SIPRNET or AKO-S to collaborate worldwide, 24/7, in order to provide virtual language support to the warfighter. Every day, personnel in-theatre use AKO to post articles and documents that need rapid translation. Automatic notifications are sent to authorized translators around the world, who subscribed to the language folders. The articles or documents are translated and posted back to AKO. This has resulted in an immediate and unprecedented intelligence impact in-theater. There is now a centralized repository and a streamlined method to coordinate the efforts of a dispersed user-knowledge base.

FAMILY READINESS GROUPS Unit and family readiness group leaders support Army families using AKO. By navigating through the user-friendly wizard for creating content on the AKO's homepage, FRGs create brand-new homepages, groups, and knowledge centers for storing documents. Units can customize their pages by adding important links, posting pictures, and including information unique to their unit and families.

How Far Has it Come?

	Army Knowledge Online Historical Milestones
1984 to 1987	**Pre AKO** ◖ 1984 - The Artificial Intelligence Center (AI Center) created at direction of VCSA, GEN Thurman ◖ 1992 - As VCSA, GEN Reimer begins planning to use information technology to transform the Army ◖ 1995 - As the CSA, GEN Reimer directs GOMO to build America's Army Online(A20), (AOL-based) ◖ 1996 - AI Center becomes Strategic & Advanced Computing Center. (SACC) Mission: reduce costs; identify & enhance infrastructure efficiencies; implement infrastructure changes by working with industry to allow: reduced acquisition and modernization costs; better utilization of existing bandwidth; incorporation of enterprise servers; and increased information security and assurance with Public Encryption Infrastructure (PKI).
1988 to 2000	**AKO Version 1, Lotus Domino** ◖ 1999 - Original AKO portal opens as a limited channel for general officers to communicate with each other ◖ 1999 - SACC moves from the Pentagon to Ft. Belvoir, VA ◖ **1 Oct 2000 – 97,000 Users**
2001	**AKO Version 2, Appian 2** ◖ **107,000 Users** ◖ 8 Aug - The Secretary of the Army and Army CSA signed *Army Knowledge Management Guidance Memorandum Number 1* which required all soldiers, DA Civilians, and NAF employees to obtain AKO accounts ◖ SACC renamed Chief Technology Office (CT0) under the CIO/G6. Mission: to institutionalize Army Knowledge Management; function as the Army proponent for Knowledge Engineering; and assess information technology to realize greatest return on Army's investment ◖ Sep 2001 - 1) Two hours after Pentagon attack, halted all forwarding on AKO so individuals could send and receive mail from locations other than their offices. Continued until HQDA mail services were reconstituted; 2) 24 x 7 hour network and help desk operations began; 3) encrypted Instant Messaging added ◖ Oct - Portal upgraded to Appian Enterprise Version 2. ◖ 30 Sep- 529,688 Users
2002	◖ **1 Million Users** ◖ CSA establishes July 2002 as deadline for Army major commands to "webify" their applications and link them on AKO ◖ Enterprise Single Sign-on (SSO) services deployed ◖ Warrior Knowledge Network launched ◖ February – Established Collaboration Centers to let customers hold Internet "Conferences" with other users ◖ Added support for "nested organizations" ◖ Medical and dental readiness alerts posted on AKO homepage ◖ April – AKO-S launched to serve Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNet) users ◖ 19 Jun - Secretary of the Army and Army CSA signed *Army Knowledge Management (AKM) Guidance Memorandum Number 2 (Server Consolidation, Reduction and Webification of Applications)*
2003	◖ **Jan – New Record of 100,000 unique logins in one day** ◖ 4 Mar - Secretary of the Army and Army CSA signed *Army Knowledge Management (AKM) Guidance Memorandum Number 3 (Personnel System Transformation)* ◖ Spring – Forums functionality released ◖ May – Disaster Recovery Site that provides redundancy for AKO became operational ◖ AKO Lite released to support low-bandwidth users ◖ 15 Jul - Secretary of the Army and Army CSA signed *Army Knowledge Management (AKM) Guidance Memorandum Number 4 (Army Logistics Enterprise Integration)*
2004	**AKO Version 3, Appian 3** ◖ **1.6 Million Users** ◖ 19 Jan - Stopped auto-forwarding email to non-official accounts ◖ Feb - Record 10,000,000 documents downloaded ◖ 13 March - Account holders required to update passwords to 10 characters ◖ March – Common Access Card (CAC) login available for AKO and SSO-enabled sites ◖ April – Record 1,000,000 documents uploaded ◖ *My Family* launched under Self-Service as single place for Army family members to get "Official" Army information ◖ Anti-virus software for home or office launched under Self-Service ◖ Sep - Acting Secretary of the Army and Army CSA signed *Army Knowledge Management (AKM) Guidance Memorandum Number 5(Army Training Enterprise Integration)* ◖ Sep - Portal upgraded to Appian Enterprise Version 3. Supports groups of users – used for communication, collaboration and access control
2005	◖ **1.8 Million Users** ◖ DEERS service launched under *My Family (Self-Service)* to allow active duty Soldiers to view the DEERS status of family members ◖ Director of Defense Information Systems Agency decision to adopt AKO system as a department-wide Web portal for DISA's No. 1 project, Net-Centric Enterprise Services (NCES). ◖ 7 March - SFC Shawn Johnson became the 100,000th individual to establish an account on AKO's classified portal, the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network. ◖ 13 April - PFC Elizabeth Sydnor became Army Knowledge Online's 300 millionth login. ◖ June - CTO renamed to Army Knowledge Online ◖ 1 Sep - Established ◖ Online hurricane emergency information center in response to the Army's need for information and links for disaster recovery ◖ 28 Sep - Set new record for user logins with 677,000 total logins of which 313,000 were unique
2006	**AKO-S Version 3, Appian 3** ◖ **Jan – New Record of 743,908 logins with 328,045 unique logins in one day** ◖ Email upgrade

What's New at

Armywide Announcements. Army organizations can now communicate with the entire Army by featuring an announcement on the homepage of AKO that reaches more than 500,000 users in one week. To request display of your announcement, enter "Inside AKO" from the AKO homepage and follow the link to the Army announcements policy information.

Content Directory. Each AKO site's content directory is now organized into three categories: "Pages", "Files", and "Forums". The "Pages" section contains a list of all the site's related pages and the homepages of subordinate sites. The "Files" section contains links to knowledge centers and sub-communities in linked AKO Files communities. The "Forums" section contains all associated forums.

E-mail. AKO, the de-facto mail hub for the Army, recently upgraded e-mail software to provide better protection from spam and viruses.

Interface Enhancements. AKO now offers a new "Site Map" tab that makes it easier to browse AKO pages on a variety of topics. Enhancements in the "My Workspace" area were redesigned to put as much information as possible at user fingertips.

"My DA Photo." Soldiers can now find out the status of their DA photo and its expiration date. Users also receive notifications when photos need to be updated.

"My Profile." AKO users can now link a personal page in their "White Pages" profile to let people know about their Army skills and experiences, and identify themselves as subject-matter experts. Users can create a profile and link it simultaneously by visiting "My Profile" in the toolbox from "My Workspace" or in the toolbar from "My Account."

AKO?

AKO Calendar Monthly View
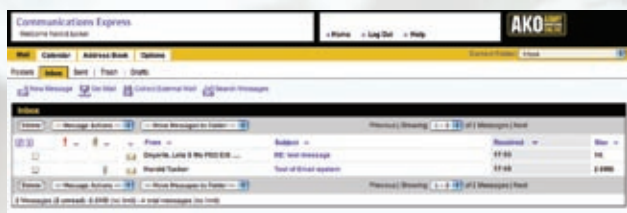
AKO-SIPRNet Upgrade. Version 3 of AKO-SIPRNet allows Soldiers access to the rich feature set of AKO in a secret environment. Soldiers can now apply group and role-based security to AKO-S documents, discussions and sites. Other new features include: multiple channel capabilities such as imagery viewer; personnel directory channels with group e-mail features; improved left navigation and search; creation of subordinate pages; the ability to send notifications and referral links; and the addition of "My Favorites" to left navigation.

Verified Family Member Accounts. AKO encourages family members without AKO accounts to sign up for a verified guest account. To sponsor a family member, full account holders should ask family members to register for the account called "Family Member Enrolled in DEERS."

My Library. AKO users will be able to search across several databases that contain magazine articles, referred journal articles, e-books, and holdings of the major military educational & research libraries. They will be able to browse 600,000 books, DVDs, Music CDs, and magazine titles in 58 Army Libraries. Users will be able to renew the books checked out at their home library, request books be sent from other libraries to their home library, and ask a librarian for help.

E-mail Upgrade. AKO upgraded its e-mail feature to Sun Java Enterprise Services 4, referred to as JES4. In response to customer feedback, AKO now offers many of the "Outlook" type features that users enjoy on their desktops. New features of the e-mail upgrade include calendaring; task management; common address book for mail and calendar; shared folders; the ability to send and read signed and/or encrypted e-mail through the webmail interface; and extensive security features.

AKO Joins the Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems Family

INFORMATION is "Combat Power" and PEO EIS, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., is providing America's warfighters with the latest information-technology weapons to win the global war on terrorism.

Nearly 3,000 Soldiers, civilians and contractors make up PEO EIS. It is the largest PEO in the Army and employs the most personnel of any PEO supporting operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. PEO EIS is divided into three functional areas: Business Systems; Finance and Logistics; and Infrastructure.

In Business Systems, the **Army's Human Resources System** is a collection of personnel accountability and maintenance software. E-Milpo processes and updates personnel records in near real time. MyERB gives Soldiers a one-page career summary and DTAS lets those in theater muster via the Internet.

The **Force Management System** will permit commanders to select the right warfighters or units needed to support any contingency, any time, through modularity.

Army National Guard and Army Reserve IT systems are the responsibility of **Reserve Component Automation Systems**. They made deployment and mobilization easier with CDs replacing bulky three-ring binders.

The **Distributed Learning System** provides a suite of training platforms for live, virtual and Web-based instruction via some 600 digital training facilities worldwide.

Army E-Learning is currently offering Soldiers and Department of Army civilians the opportunity to learn up to 29 foreign languages via the Web and Rosetta Stone.

Medical Communications for Combat

Casualty Care assists in providing a lifelong electronic medical record.

Understanding where projects are in development and reporting their status is the responsibility of **Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Enterprise Systems and Services**.

Installation Management Systems - Army provides garrison commanders inventory and range facility management systems.

In the Finance and Logistics arena, **Logistics Information Systems** are transforming and provide robust and accurate logistics data throughout the supply chain. Specifically, **Movement Tracking System**, a part of LIS, facilitates real-time life-saving communications among vehicles and command centers.

Transportation Information Systems is designed for movement planning, mobility and transportation of DoD passengers and cargo.

The Army has never had a single source for property inventory and financial management – that is until now. **General Fund Enterprise Business Systems**, by presidential mandate, will provide the Army with the industry's best financial business practices.

Within infrastructure is the **Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems**, which is responsible for providing satellite communications and connectivity to the U.S. Embassy in Iraq and providing satellite connectivity and wireless capabilities to combat-service-support units worldwide through the G4's "Connect the Logistician" program.

Defense Communications and Army Switched Systems is providing telecommunications support and the routes for networking posts, camps and stations worldwide.

Enterprise Infrastructure provides oversight of the Army's Knowledge Management Goal number 3 to manage the Army infrastructure at an enterprise level. **Defense Message System - Army** is the organizational messaging system for classified and non-classified traffic.

Joint - Automatic Identification Technology delivers the latest Radio Frequency Identification and factory-to-foxhole In-Transit Visibility.

The **Army Small Computer Program** is the approved buying source for procurement of hardware and software technology, while knowing the difference between friend and foe is the responsibility of **Enterprise Biometrics**.

At **Information Technology Services**, they are cabling the Pentagon and making "Thin-Client" technology come alive at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. **Army Knowledge Online** provides e-mail, chat and enormous filing capabilities to eligible users throughout the Army. There is a move afoot to expand AKO's capabilities to include DoD.

The information technology community understands that PEO EIS is taking knowledge across the information spectrum and turning it into action. PEO EIS, with its committed and involved team, is making a difference and shaping the technological battlefield 24/7.

AKO Forward

AKO celebrated two significant milestones in 2005. On March 7, SFC Shawn Johnson became the 100,000th individual to establish an account on AKO's classified portal, the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network. Then, on April 13, at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, PFC Elizabeth Sydnor logged in as Army Knowledge Online's 300 millionth user. After surpassing expectations for usage and functionality, the Army's chief information officer and G6, LTG Steven Boutelle, is looking toward AKO's next milestone, pushing AKO "to the edge."

AKO Forward is the next logical step in deploying secure, validated Army data and services to the Soldier. This concept makes selected services and assets more robust, more available, more secure and, ultimately, of more use to the warfighter. AKO Forward will greatly increase the speed of delivery by reducing the distance and number of network devices between origin and destination. AKO services will become immediate and reliable to all Soldiers and units. This reliability will remove the need for unit deployments of AKO-like services such as e-mail, IM document repositories and portal technologies.

Army organizations will no longer need to purchase, deploy, man and sustain collaboration services, dramatically reducing the total information technology expense for the Army.

AKO Forward sites will reduce bandwidth utilization. Today's pervasive form of communication is e-mail. AKO leaders believe that instant messaging or IM and Web conferencing will be the next big method of collaboration among Soldiers. Both of these forms of communication are dependent on a finite bandwidth throughput. AKO Forward will relieve bandwidth concerns by keeping regionalized information flow in theater.

The full expectation for AKO Forward is a constellation of roughly four AKO Forward sites situated in such areas of user concentration as Germany, South Korea, U.S. Army, Pacific, and Southwest Asia. Actual sites will be determined by user base and user experience in distant regions.

LTC Boutelle laid out goals associated with lauching AKO Forward, such as having a portal with all information exactly the same at all sites; storing files with all the information the same at the master and regional levels; providing IM and Web conferencing with regional engines running IM; and maintaining regional subsets of mail stores for e-mail.

AKO Forward will be a significant step forward for the Army. The vision of secure, validated Army data and services available anywhere, anytime, from any terminal is fulfilled by AKO itself. The more important and broader vision of those capabilities being pushed forward to the warfighter, deployed on a moment's notice, constantly replicated and optimized for performance, will be fulfilled by AKO Forward.

RESOURCES

ACCOUNT Registration. To start a new account or access an existing account, users must first sign onto an internet site and go to **www. us.army.mil**. If users know account information, they click on "Login to AKO" and proceed. For users with an account who do not remember the password, go to the URL listed above and click on "Lost Password" under "Forgot Your Password?" Then follow the steps to obtain a password to login. For new users who do not have an AKO account, go to the site and register under "New User." Account holders will need to provide a Social Security number, date of birth, and a Pay Entry Basic Date (for active Army) to authenticate their status. Sponsored guests such as family members also register here by clicking on the "New User" site and following the instructions for opening a guest account.

AKO Training and Education. Link to "Inside AKO" from the AKO homepage for resources, help guides, training materials and upcoming features.

AKO Homepage Sub Headings.

Self Service Section on AKO Homepage Antivirus Services. Link to free antivirus service software for office and home use.

Army E-Commerce. Download forms management and electronic signature software such as FormFlow Filler and PureEdge Viewer. There is a fee for Army users.

My Benefits. Link to Web sites that cover the "life cycle" of the Soldier – Recruiting, Pay and Retention; Transitioning; Retirement; Casualty Affairs; and Survivor Assistance. Follow links to calculators.

My Education. Link to 2,500 courses in information technology foreign languages and self-development; 29 Rosetta Stone foreign-language courses; and certification programs.

MyFamily. Find links for families such as Army basics, child and youth Services, Making a Move, Housing, and Home and Family Life.

My Finance. New enhancements and upgrades available for all users to MyPay, the online pay account information system established by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

My Legal. Visit this site to get information on powers of attorney; an estate-planning tool kit; federal voting assistance; claims against the government; and other legal-assistance information.

My Medical. Locate information on the TRICARE Military Health and Dental Plans, including enrollment information; toll-free numbers; TRICARE Online; claims information; and a Network Provider Directory.

My Personnel. Links to Human Resources Command, G-1 Personnel, Civilian Personnel, Career Field Designation, and PERSTEMPO.

My Readiness. Active duty Soldiers can view their medical readiness status and detailed information about required immunizations, needed physicals, date of last DNA sample and dental-readiness status.

My Security. Links to the Army's Operational Security Information site and Army Information Assurance homepage to find polices, regulations, best-business practices, and information-assurance guidance.

My Training. Soldiers can access the Army Learning Management System, a Web-based information system that delivers training to Soldiers, manages training information, and provides training collaboration, scheduling and career-planning capabilities.

My Travel. Follow links to federal travel regulations, the Defense Travel System, and per diem rate charts and travel-related information.

AKO MISSON: The Army Knowledge Online Project Office provides world-wide, full-time premier enterprise Web portal functions, tools and services to the warfighter, institution and greater Army community, securely and reliably.

This capability enables Army transformation, efficiency, and greater connectivity among Soldiers, Army families and the Army workforce.

AKO Goals For Service in 2006

- Make AKO even faster by lowering response times for search, chat and AKO files.

- Enhance usability by improving search, simplifying the homepage, upgrading AKO-S, and offering a new and improved e-mail.

- Move AKO "to the edge" by providing "AKO Forward" sites with AKO services wherever Soldiers are.

- Expand single sign-on to enable users to sign on to key DOD systems such as Tricare Online, MyPay, and Microsoft products such as Sharepoint.

With AKO having surpassed expectations for usage and functionality, the Army's Chief Information Officer and G6, LTG Steven Boutelle, stresses that Army organizations and leaders should use the enterprise services and tools on AKO to the greatest extent possible. The bottom line, he says, is "One Army--One Portal." As the Army's integrated Enterprise portal, AKO will remain an essential underpinning of the Army's transformation to a net-centric, knowledge-based force.

BOTTOM LINE   *One Army, One Portal!*